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## THE WHEAT SITUATION.

The course of wheat prices from now on will be watched with more than usual interest. The excessive speculation in the grain markets has subsided and the indications are that from now on the movement of prices in the Chicago pit will be less violent, and will accordingly reflect with greater accuracy the actual position of the wheat crop than was possible so long as the conditions prevailing a few weeks ago continued, says the New York Commercial. The question of whether or not the present high level of prices for wheat has been established for the season depends on whether the estimate that the wheat crop of this country is only a little in excess of 500,000,000 bushels is correct. If this estimate proves to be too low then prices of futures will undoubtedly decline to a lower level.

That the European wheat crop will show a heavy falling off is undoubtedly true. While the estimates of statisticians, which indicate a diminution of over 12 per cent in the crop as compared with last year, are not necessarily accurate, there can be no longer any doubt that the European wheat crop this year will show a heavy decrease as compared with last year. The shortage is intensified by the poverty of the maize crops in Hungary and the Balkan states. Indian corn is largely consumed by the peoples of southeastern Europe and the shortage in this crop must divert part of the unsatisfied consumption toward wheat.

The question then arises where will Europe secure the increased supply of wheat to offset its diminished production. The United States retains the place of the largest producer of wheat throughout the world, its production of wheat usually exceeding the combined yields of the three largest wheat-growing countries outside of Europe. It would seem then that Europe would naturally turn to this country for its wheat supplies. The extent to which we can supply this demand will depend on the outcome of this year's crops. In this connection it must be remembered that while our wheat crop has shown no large increase during the last few years, the consumption of wheat in this country, as a result of the rapidly increasing population and the gradual increase in the general standard of living, has increased to a very large extent.

A wheat crop, which only a comparatively few years ago would have been considered an enormous one and sufficient to allow for heavy exports to Europe, at the present time may be only sufficiently large to meet the consumptive demands of this country, so rapidly has the consumption of wheat increased in the United States during the last decade. A wheat crop of 500,000,000 bushels would mean that the production this year is only about equal to our home needs. Little would be left to supply the European shortage and the probabilities are that prices would establish themselves for the season above the dollar mark. On the other hand, should the crop prove to be from 50,000,000 to 70,000,000 bushels larger, then the natural law of supply and demand should cause a decline in the price of futures from the present high level.

## SHACKLING THE POLICE.

Massachusetts, equally with the University of Chicago, may be relied upon for exhibitions of fine-spun theories evolved by the process of hair-splitting, but in nothing has the habit been illustrated more than in the recent decision of Judge Cutler of the superior court at Chelsea. The question came up on an indictment charging two men with resisting police officers while engaged in making an arrest. The facts developed on the trial showed that on the arrest being made, the two indicted parties urged the arrested man to resist and volunteered their assistance in taking him from the custody of the officers. Massachusetts being credited with inculcating due respect for the law, the two interfering parties were also arrested and indicted. They were dismissed by the court on the conclusion of the testimony for the prosecution.

The court held that it was beyond the province of the police to anticipate the commission of an offense against the law, and that the officers were bound to wait until the suggestion of resistance and the prom-

ise of assistance had crystallized into action. The ruling is remarkable—also untenable, says the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune. The two parties had urged resistance to the law, and had threatened assistance in the escape of the first party arrested. They were men living on the night side of the street, but the court held that that was not a fact to be considered. In other words, the two policemen ought to have waited until one or both have been smashed over the head with a club or a slung-shot, or until one of the trio had "pasted the officers between the eyes," to borrow from the phraseology of the street.

It would also follow from the ruling of the highly respectable Massachusetts court that a police officer, seeing a knife in the hands of a frenzied man rushing on an enemy, must wait until it has been sunk in the body of the victim before making an arrest, because "the police can not anticipate the commission of a crime." The best that can be said of the ruling is that it is in line with the contention of Mr. W. Jennings Bryan, that injunction can not be sought for the purpose of preventing a wrong, because it would be "government by injunction." In the case of the Chelsea ruling it would be, so far as the police are concerned, "government by acquiescence" until too late. Police officers exceed their lawful authority at times, but the Massachusetts ruling would tie them hand and foot.

## DUM-DUM BULLETS.

Complaint has been made that the Russians are making use of so-called "dum-dum" bullets. The Japanese suspected that the Russians were using ammunition of this character, basing their suspicions upon the vicious sounds made by the bullets when they struck, and they now believe that they have proved their case by the fact that dum-dum ammunition was found on the field at Liao Yang. The Japanese legation at Washington has been notified that two kinds of dum-dum bullets were found among the munitions of war captured at Liao Yang.

There is something abhorrent about the use of these dum-dum bullets, which aggravate the wounds inflicted and reduce the chances of recovery under treatment, besides being more deadly than the ordinary cartridge. However, it does not appear that there is any rule prohibiting their use in war. Perhaps Great Britain and the United States are chiefly to blame for the fact that their use is not absolutely prohibited by general international agreement.

At the universal peace conference held at The Hague in 1899 a proposition prohibiting the use of asphyxiating shells and expanding bullets in war was voted for by all nations (Russia and Japan included) except the United States and Great Britain, Portugal abstaining from voting. As absolute unanimity by the delegations was required for the adoption of the articles, the proposition therefore failed. There is no doubt that dum-dum bullets were used in the Boer war, and the ammunition captured at Liao Yang shows that the Russians are also using them. War is hell, as General Sherman remarked, and it is impossible to convert it into a fete.

## WHERE DID SHE GET IT?

One of the most remarkable incidents of the war in the far east, says an eastern journal, is in the ever-replenishing amount of Japanese ammunition of all sorts, kinds and qualities, and the question is, Where did she get it? The amount of ammunition expended in the siege of Port Arthur is phenomenal. During the active state of hostilities at that port not less than three hundred Japanese guns kept up a continuous fire, and ceasing not by day nor by night. With the Japanese neither a shell nor a life counted. The decimation of ranks was but for a day. Where one Japanese sailor or soldier fell there were two ready and anxious to take his place in the ranks or behind the guns doing work so deadly on the walls of Port Arthur.

The Japanese, whether statesman, general, admiral, sailor or private, is the world's present wonder. He has intelligence, prudence and bravery, military and diplomatic skill immeasurably superior to the intelligence, prudence, bravery and military and diplomatic skill of the Russian. He uses his qualities to greater advantage than the Russian can hope to use them, if the present conflict is to be taken as furnishing a criterion. Where Japan procured her ammunition is a Japanese secret, and the secretive Japanese is not likely to gratify the world's curiosity on the subject. Japan has the ammunition in undoubted abundance—as the Russian knows to his sorrow—and, more than that, the Japanese soldier or sailor has shown that he knows how to make every shot and every shell count. Incidentally, there is something quite Americanesque in his shooting.

The Japanese government has closed a contract with the Carnegie Steel Company for 7500 tons of the finest nickel steel plates for its new battleships. When it comes to battleship material, however, Russia ought to be a preferred customer. There's so much more prospect of a duplicate order.

It is a safe wager that no nihilistic bomb will ever work serious damage to the name of Von Plehve's successor. It might scatter the letters some, but that would make no appreciable difference.

## ONE SUSPECT ARRESTED.

Man Taken at Deming for Canadian Pacific Holdup Job.

Bellingham, Sept. 15.—A man believed to be one of the Canadian Pacific trainrobbers was taken this evening at Deming, 16 miles from here, by Canadian Pacific detectives and Whatcom county deputy sheriffs. He gave the name Charles Davidson. It is declared by the officers that he tallies with the description of one of the bandits. Attempts to get him to tell a story proved futile. Davidson rode into Deming on a bicycle, with a gun across his shoulders. He made no attempt at resistance. It was thought the robbers were surrounded in a cabin at Lynden last night, but the posses were disappointed.

## Bridge Collapses: Two Killed.

Stillwater, Minn., Sept. 15.—The half mile bridge across Lake St. Croix extending to the Wisconsin side caught fire this afternoon. The fire apparatus, in responding to the alarm, was followed by the usual crowd of persons. The fire so weakened one span of the bridge that when the fire apparatus and crowd attempted to cross it fell into the water, 29 feet below. About 20 persons were precipitated with the wreckage into the water. Two were killed and five seriously injured.

## DYNAMITED HIS RIVAL.

Colorado Saloonkeeper Killed by Man With Whom He Quarreled.

Silverton, Colo., Sept. 15.—Peter Dulla, a saloonkeeper, was assassinated early today by means of dynamite exploded in his bedroom. The body was terribly mutilated.

Posses are searching the hills for Bernardo Fieri. Dalla and Fieri had quarreled, it is said, over the latter's attentions to the former's fiancée. Dalla was to have been married within a fortnight.

## BASEBALL.

### Pacific Coast.

At Portland—Tacoma, 7; Portland, 5; 12 innings.

At San Francisco—Oakland, 1; Los Angeles, 9.

At Seattle—San Francisco, 8; Seattle, 6.

### Pacific National.

At Spokane—Salt Lake, 0; Spokane, 3.

### American.

At Philadelphia—First game: Washington, 4; Philadelphia, 8. Second game: Washington, 3; Philadelphia, 4.

At Boston—First game: New York, 2; Boston, 3. Second game: New York, 1; Boston, 1.

At Cleveland—Detroit, 0; Cleveland, 0; called in fifth inning on account of darkness.

### National.

At New York—Boston, 2; New York, 3.

At Chicago—Cincinnati, 1; Chicago, 2.

At Philadelphia—Brooklyn, 2; Philadelphia, 7.

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